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FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1895.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY.

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HUXLEY died on June 29th, having attained the age of seventy years on May 4th. His death was not unexpected, as he had been lying ill at Eastbourne for nearly four months, nor can it be regarded as premature, as his important contributions to science ceased some fifteen years ago. But the vigor of his thought and language had remained unabated, and his death, following that of Tyndall, leaves a great blank in the group of men who from England have directed the course of modern science.

Huxley made his own way, his father having been an undermaster in a school in the Middlesex village of Ealing. He became a surgeon in the navy and spent four years in a cruise in the South Seas. A sea voyage was thus the determining factor in his life, as in the case of Darwin. Several communications sent home to the Linnæan Society were rejected, but in 1849 the Royal Society published his paper on the *Anatomy and Affinities of the Meduse*, and in 1851 he was elected a fellow of the Society. He was disappointed in his hopes that the admiralty would publish his great work on *Oceanic Hydra* (which finally appeared in 1859), and resigned his position in the navy. After several failures to secure a position (he and his friend Tyndall applied unsuccessfully for vacant chairs in the University of Toronto) he succeeded Forbes in 1854 as paleontologist and professor of natural his-